

**California Department of Conservation
FARMLAND MAPPING AND MONITORING PROGRAM**

2012 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Sonoma

FIELD MAPPER(S): Farl Grundy

IMAGE DATA USED:

Source: National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP), USDA
Acquisition date: Summer 2012
Data description: 1 meter resolution, True color mosaic
Coverage gaps: None
Additional imagery used: None

WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES:

The following entities and individuals provided information used to conduct 2012 mapping.

Local Review Comments (submitted by cities, counties, & others on 2010 maps)
City of Santa Rosa Town of Windsor
Personal Contacts
None
Websites Used for Reference
Sonoma County Crop Report http://www.sonoma-county.org/agcomm/crop_report.htm Sonoma County Regional Parks http://parks.sonomacounty.ca.gov/ Sonoma County Water Agency http://www.scwa.ca.gov/how-wastewater-is-treated/
GIS Data Used for Reference
California City Boundaries Layer Sonoma County Base Map

2010-2012 CHANGE SUMMARY:

Changes made during the map update are summarized by type and location. Particular attention is paid to large or unusual changes and their estimated acreages. Please note

that land use type, size of land use unit, soil quality, and Farmland of Local Importance definition (if any) determines the final Important Farmland (IFL) category. [See definitions at bottom of table.](#)

Conversions to Urban Land	
Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land	1 changes
Conversion from Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land was minimal this update. This conversion was due to the addition of a water storage pond just north of the existing Sonoma Valley Wastewater Treatment Plant in Sonoma. This change involved approximately 5 acres of conversion from Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land.	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	6 changes
Changes this update were primarily due to new homes and the increasing density of already existing homes and buildings. The City of Santa Rosa had approximately 40 acres of new homes followed by the City of Petaluma with approximately 10 acres of new homes.	
Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization	
Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	26 changes
The majority of these changes were due to irrigated farmland having been fallow for three or more update cycles. While this type of conversion had a significant number of changes, few were greater than 20 acres in size. These changes will result in the conversion to Farmland of Local Importance or Grazing Land depending upon their location. The most significant of these conversions occurred in and around the City of Rohnert Park where approximately 200 acres of Irrigated Farmland was converted to Nonirrigated land use. In Schellville approximately 50 acres of irrigated pasture was tracked fallow for three or more updates; meanwhile, Buena Vista had approximately 50 acres and Jimtown approximately 20 acres converted from Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated land uses.	
Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	2 changes
Predominately these changes occurred as a result of the delineation between Nonirrigated land uses and low-density housing, or Irrigated Farmland having been fallow for 3 or more update cycles in plots of land too small to be mapped as Nonirrigated land. Of these changes the largest was approximately 5 acres in size and was located south of Sugarloaf Ridge State Park.	
Conversions to Irrigated Farmland	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	42 changes
Of all the types of change, this conversion category experienced the most changes this update. Although most were small, less than 20 acres, there were a few sizable changes. Just north west of the City of Rohnert Park, approximately 90 acres of previously mapped Nonirrigated land was converted into the Irrigated Farmland category. The Sebastopol quad and the Two Rock quad had approximately 120 acres and 90 acres of this	

conversion type, respectively.

Unusual Changes

(Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2012 update.)

A minor boundary adjustment to water bodies resulted in a 13 acre conversion from Water to Farmland of Local Importance.

Areas of Concern for Future Updates

(Locations or map categories noted as needing careful checking during 2014 update, and reasons.)

This update displayed many land use changes within categories, most specifically the increased production of nonirrigated grains. The southern portions of the county had a higher prevalence of these grains as compared to the northern portions of the county. The recognition of these grains can be somewhat difficult and extra care should be taken when trying to reach a determination of land use in these complex areas.

Definitions:

Irrigated Farmland includes most irrigated crops grown in California. When combined with soil data, these farmed areas become the Important Farmland (IFL) categories of Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance & Unique Farmland. Because of the nature of the IFL definitions, some irrigated uses, such as irrigated pastures or nurseries, may not be eligible for all three IFL categories.

Nonirrigated land uses include grazing areas, land used for dryland crop farming, and formerly irrigated land that has been left idle for three or more update cycles. These uses are frequently incorporated into county Farmland of Local Importance definitions.

Other Land includes a variety of miscellaneous uses, such as low density rural residential development, mining areas, vacant areas and nonagricultural vegetation. Confined animal agriculture facilities are mapped as Other Land unless incorporated into a county Farmland of Local Importance definition.

Urban Land includes residential, industrial, recreational, infrastructure and institutional uses.

For more on map categories, including Farmland of Local Importance definitions, visit the [FMMP web site](#).

LABOR ESTIMATE:

Time estimates for conducting the 2012 update.

Image interpretation, start date: 6/24/2014

Image interpretation, number of days: 12

Ground truth dates: 8/19/2014 – 8/20/2014

Number of days for post-ground truth clean-up: 6
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Further information on the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program can be found at:
<http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp/Pages/Index.aspx>